

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY

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CIRCULATE THE COMMONER

Dr. J. M. Fulton, Audubon, Iowa.— I hereby renew my faith and loyalty to The Commoner by handing you \$6 and ten subscriptions. Our principles were never more vindicated than now, but what we need most is the steadfast support and loyalty to the principles for which the real Jefferson-Bryan democracy is contending and embodied in the Denver platform. The difficulty to wrest the government from the hands of the few into which it has fallen since the Civil war is a much more serious problem than most people realize, but organization and enthusiasm with righteousness on our side must take the place of money furnished by predatory wealth. We can easily extend the circulation of The Commoner to a million copies if each voter will do a little extra work. This work is not alone for democrats but republicans as well for they will help reap the reward in the way of better government. So many democrats would greatly rejoice in victory but they are not sufficiently enthusiastic that they will contribute that little that will ultimately bring success. Democracy means much more than mere opposition to the republicans. Democracy is contending for the principle of self-government and liberty that is as old as government itself—not handed down by a gang of plutocrats from Washington but coming up from the people from where good government always comes. Every democrat should take The Commoner, get posted, and tell the good news to his republican neighbor. Get his subscription if you can and the chances are that he will become a convert. You cannot hope to convert a plutocrat who sincerely believes in the Hamilton theory of government but there are many republicans these days advocating democratic principles and it is only a short step further over where they belong with the democrats and it is to these we must extend the the great work of The Commoner.

Two Views of One Presidential Candidate

"THE SYSTEM'S" CANDIDATE

It must be confessed that democratic presidential politics are becoming a bit confusing. We are told on all hands, almost, that Governor Harmon is the preferred candidate of "the system." Yet it is impossible to escape noticing that such publications as Harper's Weekly and the New York World, Sun and Evening Post, who are generally accredited as more or less friendly to the big interests, are sending up a daily chorus of praise of Governor-elect Wilson of New Jersey, and neglecting Harmon almost entirely.

Yet we are estopped from classifying Wilson as also a "system" favorite by the double fact that his public utterances are uniformly of the progressive order, and that he is engaged already in a determined and even bitter fight to keep James Smith, the corporation candidate, from being sent to the senate by the New Jersey legislature. He is doing this in spite of the fact that it was Smith who developed him as a candidate for governor, and in spite of the further fact that some of his most cordial newspaper boosters are also manifestly friendly to Smith.

There are some things peculiar, too, about the status of Harmon, who it would seem was not under "the system's" influence when, as special attorney for the United States, he insisted so strenuously on sending Paul Morton to jail that President Roosevelt had to discharge him to save Morton. And Morton, then as now, was a personal and financial intimate of the head of "the system," J. Pierpont Morgan!

Ordinarily a democrat who was re-elected governor of Ohio by 100,000 majority, with all the power of a republican national administration invoked against him, would become forthwith a foremost candidate, in the newspapers at least, for the presidential nomination. Yet it is undeniably evident that the Harmon boom is lagging and is getting very little newspaper attention, while the Wilson movement is being favored with unintermittent publicity. Why aren't the corporation publications paying Harmon some attention?

Perhaps when the truth is known it will be found that the real "system" candidate is neither Wilson nor Harmon, nor any other democrat for that matter, but rather a distinguished fellow-townsmen of Harmon's whom "the system" helped elect in 1908 and whom it would gladly help re-elect in 1912.—Editorial in the Omaha World-Herald.

Oakland, Cal., December 9, 1910.—Editor The Commoner: There are indications of a revolt

among the people—the great common people—of this country against corporation and trust domination of the government. And yet, in some material respects, it is manifest that the corporations and trusts continue dominant where and when it was thought the result of the last election ended their dominancy. Notably is this the case in Ohio.

Governor Harmon was re-elected by a greatly increased plurality. He is the dominant political figure in the Buckeye state, and he is regarded in some quarters—Wall Street, particularly—as a probable presidential nominee, looking to 1912.

And yet, Governor Harmon is not known to favor election of United States senators by direct vote of the people; the most urgently urged and imperatively needed governmental reform now before the people, to the end that our government in fact may again be made truly democratic as representative of the whole people and for the protection, conserving and subserving of the economic welfare of the whole people, and not merely the aggrandizement of a part—a small class numerically speaking—of the people.

Can it be possible that Governor Harmon is non-committal on this vital question, because multi-millionaire John R. McLean desires and expects to be elected United States senator by the next Ohio state legislature, which will be democratic?

John R. McLean in the senate would be a reactionary, a corporation senator, as much so as has been the outgoing senator, Charles R. Dick. Would Governor Harmon's support of Mr. McLean's candidacy be accepted by the people as evidence of Governor Harmon's fitness for president in furtherance of governmental reform as herein indicated?

It would appear that some influences, in its own estimation potential in humbugging the people—is getting overly bold when it openly advocates for president as a "progressive" democrat a man who, as governor of Ohio, is so obligated to John R. McLean that he dare not say a word in opposition to his candidacy for senator.

Suffice to say that John R. McLean, as owner and publisher of the Cincinnati Enquirer and Washington Post, has faithfully supported Wall Street's interest in legislation and government, and has as faithfully opposed everything in the nature of governmental reform. And yet, his money is liable to secure for him a seat in the United States senate, with the approval of Governor Harmon. JOHN AUBREY JONES.

CAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY BRING REFORM? (Continued from Page 3)

fighting the Wall Street element within the party that we have not the energy we should have to fight the opposition without.

The predatory interests are always at work; they have their representatives in both parties. They have a powerful press and campaign funds without limit. They are alert to take advantage of any favorable turn. If one of their men carries a state he is at once boomed for president; his virtues are extolled and an appeal is made to those who regard "who can win?" as the paramount issue.

Fortunately we are so near 1904 that the democrats will remember our fate when the organization was turned over to those whose sole aim seemed to be to please the men who defeated our party in 1896 and 1900.

The arrogance of those who are now plotting to make our party subservient to the money power will, I hope, finally arouse the voters, for those in the scheme seem to assume that opposition to the party in the crucial campaign of 1896 will be an advantage in the coming campaign rather than a weakness.

I am pleased to know that the democrats of the state of Washington are alive to the situation and that they see the danger which confronts the party. I shall discuss the merits of the candidates in The Commoner, pointing out who, in my judgment, can be trusted and who are objectionable.

I can never fully discharge the debt I owe to the democrats who have trusted me, but I can make partial payment from time to time by giving them the benefit of my acquaintance with men and measures, and by assisting them, so far as I can, in the effort to make the party worthy of the support of the people.

Yours truly, W. J. BRYAN.

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Making the life of a little child glad, that is the spirit that flows
Out of the season of Christmastide sweet as the dew of rose.
Making the life of a little one be Merry and bright and sweet;
Clapping of hands with childhood glee, Dancing of little feet.

Making the heart of a weary one bright, so that the world may seem
Somewhat of sweet mid the rolling storm down in its deeps of dream.
Making the life of a weary one feel
Something in life still dwells,
Sweet with the warm and the true and the real
Of the beautiful Christmas spells.

Making a troubled one's pathway turn unto a rosier way,
That is the glory of Christmastide wherever it glows today.
Making a troubled one look ahead
Unto a hope reborn,
Bright with the beautiful beams that thread
The crystal hazes of morn.

Making a little child leap and laugh, wild in its fairy glee,
That is the spirit of Christmastide wherever the child may be.
Making a little child cling and kiss,
Swing in the dance of mirth,
That is the ladder that leads to bliss
Out of the dust of earth.

—Baltimore Sun.